

REMARKS

[001] Claims 1-10, 12-14, 16, 17, and 19 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,946,569 to Stuber (hereinafter “Stuber”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 237,172 to Dentler (hereinafter “Dentler”). Claims 11, 15, and 20 are stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Stuber, Dentler, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,048,605 to Toon (hereinafter “Toon”). Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stuber in view of Dentler and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,399,544 to Fairchild (hereinafter “Fairchild”). A decision on the Appeal was rendered in which rejection of Claims 1-10, 12-14, 16, 17, and 19 by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103 and rejection of Claim 18 by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) was affirmed. The rejection of Claims 11, 15, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) was reversed.

[002] Accordingly, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 13 in order to incorporate the subject matter of allowed Claims 11 and 15, the annular or circular plastic sheet. Claims 11 and 15 are hereby canceled. Claim 20 previously included the same subject matter and is in condition for allowance based on the decision of the Board. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments place Claims 1-10, 12-14, and 16-20 in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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